

February 23, 2023

In support of SB 1095

Dear Chairs Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, and members of the housing committee:

My name is Marco Pujols. I am a resident of New Haven, Connecticut. I am also an ally and Alum of the Connecticut Justice Alliance. I am testifying in support of S.B. 1095: An Act Concerning the Use of School Resource Officers In Connecticut Schools.

All students deserve to feel safe, secure and supported in their places of learning. Yet too often our schools rely on policing to keep children in line, rather than funding professionals trained to deliver students necessary developmental and behavioral health resources.

According to research by [Connecticut Voices for Children](#), there's no evidence School Resource Officers (SROs) make students or staff safer, but schools with SROs have more arrests and more expulsions than their peer institutions without SROs.

We have to think about the families, students, and children that are impacted by School Resources Officers. Why is it that Black students are 17x more likely to be arrested than their white peers? Why are we struggling to support students of color more than their white peers? Why is our legal system, especially the youth legal system, full of kids of color?

I strongly support S.B. 1095. I hope the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers will vote in favor of this bill. Together, we can build an educational system that is centered on the social-emotional well-being of students through care, resources, learning, and restoration.

Thank you for your time,

Marco Pujols Jr.